

O'BRIEN  
Serial No. 10/052,106

- 2 -

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(u) Please cancel without prejudice claim 5 and amend claim 1 as follows.

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(c) 1. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing the resistance of ATM cells to burst errors and jamming, the ATM cells each including a header and payload, the method including the step of interleaving the ATM cell header into an error correction transmission frame wherein empty/idle ATM cells are eliminated/used to substantially match input and output rates of an ATM link.

(c) 2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein error correction is applied separately to the payload and header prior to interleaving them within a transmission frame.

(c) 3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the error correction corresponds to Reed Solomon forward error correction.

(c) 4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the Reed Solomon encoding is applied to the header and payload separately following which the encoded header is interleaved with the encoded payload.

(u) 5-6. (Cancelled)

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O'BRIEN  
Serial No. 10/052,106

- 3 -

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(c) Concl'd

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus adapted to enhance the resistance of ATM cells to burst errors and jamming operation in accordance with the method of claim 1.

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